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DATE: 17 August 1950

TO : Chief, Foreign Division -
FROM : Chief of Station, Karlsruhe C/H
SUBJECT: General - Operational
MESSAGE: Continuation of a Study on GV L
REF : MOL-A-1291

The following notes are the results of a visit August 1 through 3 with General Agency L's LEIDL at his headquarters in Karlsruhe and at his schooling center near Bad Mergentheim.

1. Agent Training: GV L's "Wuehlmann" (i.e., training and briefing of the agency's agents when necessary) has his headquarters near Bad Mergentheim, at Igelsheim, in a requisitioned cafe and inn. The Wuehlmann, formerly Lt. Colonel SUCHOW (53038) was the last superior officer of KLAUSNER for a couple of months in 1945; SUCHOW (see Primer entry for traces) and his wife now use the cafe property as home and as holding center for GV L bodies sent to the West from Berlin or the Russian Zone. For example, if Major LEPI's description materializes (of FULL-712), in which OFFSPRING is still interested in view of JUPITER, he would be held and debriefed at SUCHOW's inn.

2. Rote Kapelle: A house guest at the inn since May has been Heinrich REISER (72661) former Kriminalkommissar (cf. MOL-A-1901). He was actually hustled there by LEIDL, who did not want any further CIC interference with REISER's "teaching" activity in the Rote Kapelle field for OFFSPRING. In 1941-42, REISER, as RSHA Abwehr, directing deception material from Berlin, through Lt. Colonel MOHLEDER, Abwehr, in Paris, thus, together with all the old radio intercept specialists who used to work on the case now to be found in the 236 fold, bringing in a fair bit of Rote Kapelle into OFFSPRING.)

3. It is REISER who personally captured the "Grand Chef" Gilbert >
Otto KREPPER, in a dentist's chair in Paris, and ran him for about nine months. It is REISER who, with Gilbert's assistance, captured Harry ROBINSON in a Paris Metro late in December 1942. In 1943, REISER was transferred back to Germany, with PANNWITZ taking over the Rote Kapelle Paris assignment. (REISER states Gilbert managed to escape soon after PANNWITZ took over.) After the war, REISER was delivered to the French on an extradition request. Up to June 1949, he sat in the Chere-Midi jail in Paris, being debriefed on the Rote Kapelle by the French. When he was released, the Germans in Karlsruhe promptly put him in jail again (as an RSHA personality). When he was released in April 1950, he

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was immediately picked up by LEIDL, but with CIA and the British (of MOB-A-6233) also hot on the trail, and all eager for the same thing, REISER's Rote Kapelle knowledge.

b. REISER is now devoting his full time to a recapitulation of all he remembers about the case; several elaborate charts have been prepared, and his report, running to some 150 pages, should be ready in October. REISER and LEIDL feel there is enough current operational activity in the Rote Kapelle field to warrant OFFSPRING's submitting a developmental project based on it, after the long study has been submitted and studied by OFFSPRING and its American supporters. REISER now regrets that he burned his own files on the case in Karlsruhe in 1945 and that two additional trunks he sent to Tauberbischofsheim were burned there by PARNWITZ.

c. Of the important persons of the cast, REISER mentioned that Harry ROBINSON's man in Paris, ADMIRALSKIN, is still around and has a business enterprise, Unipetrol, in Switzerland, (Zurich) and still has his old secretary, Helene LARECHE; that "Grand Chef" Gilbert was probably seen in Fribourg, Switzerland, in 1948 (this according to KLAUSER, who does not remember the source); that Kent's "Paul" (in the Belgian Smexco), currently known as Lt. SEIFRIMON, is often in Berlin these days; that Kent's man (out of Sime in Marseilles), Iris SPRINGER, in Lyon, is still on hand, and that the group "Solje," set up in Paris and Marseilles by the Germans when they controlled the Rote Kapelle, still exists and now under French scrutiny; that the Bulgarian DIMITROFF, of the Kent Sime-Marseilles show as member in Vichy/Giermont-Ferrand and having at that time a source close to Ambassador LEAHY, and the Turkish ambassador, is still in Western Europe.

d. The study will, of course, devote considerable attention to the German remnants of the Rote Kapelle. REISER is convinced that the Rote Kapelle exists today, that it was not just something created as an espionage network for World War II. He claims that when he was interrogating Gilbert, he found among the Grand Chef's papers a document dated 1937 or 1938, dividing the Rote Kapelle's activities into three areas - Europe, the Americas, Asia. REISER claims that the "Director" was a man of high rank, responsible for the intelligence coverage directly to the Comintern, secondly to MVD. The "Director" had at his disposal elements of MVD, of "OSS", the special services office, "now Smersch", and of the Technological-Scientific Special Institute, Moscow. Each area had special support units for arranging various functions, first, W/T experts; second, a depot for money, reports, and supplies; and third, a group for working out cover firms (like Sime and Smexco). REISER characterizes as "OSS"-type activity today, and carried out under Rote Kapelle direction, events like the Prien explosion in the French Zone of Germany, the Bordeaux forest fire, and British Naval sabotage. (NDB: we are including the above hodge-podge of history, current social notes and possible rumor as an example of the type of personnel with OV L, their line of thinking, their preoccupation with Rote Kapelle, and as preparation for the expected project intended to penetrate the present Rote Kapelle.)

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Lapelle*

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3. BEZIRKS VERTRETUNG 2600, "Albert." /2600 is Individ. ALBERT,
(of MCL-A-48) Frankfurt/Main.

a. August HOPPE (#2697) is political commentator on NDR (Nordwest Deutsche Rundfunk), Cologne, and lives in Cologne-Deutz. He is in close contact with Erik KINNE of the NDR Berlin office, who supplies political background material not necessarily used by HOPPE over the air. (KINNE will soon be tapped in Berlin directly by GV L's 'Frans Fuchs.') HOPPE, in addition to supplying political reports for GV L (some are given to the British by HOPPE, but those are so labeled and OFFSPRING then reserves them internally and gives them no dissemination), has also been working on a case of KOFATSCHER (not yet reported to us) involving MVD/DDR recruiting. HOPPE, according to LEIDL, offers GR potentialities. (MDB: We imagine HOPPE has also been at least partly involved in UTILITI's attempts to get his brother, Hans, in Rome accepted as a source of background material from Italy for NDR, thus getting Hans another bit of cover.)

b. #2600.1 (5002) is employed in Hersfeld and works exclusively on PW interrogation cards.

c. Frau SCHMINKE (#2600.395005), Frankfurt/Main, a doctor, worked as a PW in a PW hospital in Russia. Might offer GR potentialities.

d. Frau FREUSSLER (#2693), Frankfurt/Main, is in the KPD, and, according to LEIDL, a 'Cominform official.' Evidence of this claim should be forthcoming. Offers GR potentialities.

e. Adam GANJON (#2646, constituting UV of case number under BV 2600) lives in Frankfurt/Main. He is a former police official, and was again in the Frankfurt police in 1945-46, but was thrown out when a Gestapo prisoner accused GANJON of having beaten him up. (Of MCL-A-48.)

f. Frau TISCH (#2681) does CI work in the Heidelberg area.

g. Walter HEROTH (#2682) is a Karlsruhe police official and part-time instructor for CI training at the OFFSPRING agent training school at Friedberg, Hessn. (Of MCL-A-48, MCL-A-1290.) 18/FBI

h. DR. Frau SCHMIDT (#2680) lives in Hamburg. He is a Ruhr coal industries syndic and supplies chiefly reports on economic espionage (III MI).

i. Frau JUNO (#2679) is an old railroad official, supplying III MI reports from the Cologne-Bremen area.

4. BEZIRKS VERTRETUNG 2601 (Coburg), with UV 2620 (Munich).

a. Frau TOTENHAUPT (#2733) is a police official in Hof.

b. Frau ALTENBERGER (#2766), son of General ALTENBERGER, Munich; is shortly to quit OFFSPRING. He is going to Syria as a codes expert, for DM 3000 per month, part to be paid in gold.

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c. Frits SETZOLD (#2730), pre-war political police official, is case officer of Operation Ring. In addition, he does CI-CI and 'illegal KPD' work in the Munich area. (Cf MCL-A-48.)

d. Erich BERGMANN (#2620) has UV 2620, and is deputy chief of BV 2601. Pre-war experience was being Werkschafffuhrer of the Badische Soda und Anilinwerke.

e. Frau WALD (#2739) lives in Munich. He does CI and 'illegal KPD' work. He is a Rotspanienkämpfer, International Brigade member, friend of Franz DANKE.

(MDS Comment: It is interesting to note that more and more of the personnel listed in attachment "B" to MCL-A-48, which constituted OFFSPRING's original proposal for Verfassungsschutz working-level candidates, appear as members of GV L. On the basis of persons identified above in para. 3 and 4, it is probably not too safe to assume that all of the MCL-A-48 persons are members of GV L or else friends thereof. It would mean, also, that they are the persons who will supply Bonn with Verfassungsschutz-type material, insofar as such material will come from GV L at all.)

f. BEZIRKS-VERTRÄGUNG 2602, Berlin, KUNO, p., by real name, present alias "Franz Fuchs," Abwehr veteran.

g. Frau AMASTASOV (#2602/1) is a Bulgarian and lives in the Russian Sector of Berlin. He is an old, wartime, Balkan contact of DELITUS-WAGNER and was recommended by the latter to 2602.

h. Frau WANDL (#2793) and chief of the Filiale of the same number, lives in Berlin-Schmargendorf. He is an old Abwehr officer, sought by the Russians. His activity for GV L up to now has been chiefly in the 'teacher' field (background material, operational leads and tips), guided directly by #2602 ('Kuno'). WANDL's operational target #1 is to build up the case against MATTHIAS, who, according to him, was Gestapo informant #1 in Königsberg while working simultaneously for the KPD (already mentioned in MCL-A-1291, but no further details supplied to date).

i. Frau SUHR (#2776) lives in Berlin-Niederkölln and works in the Schenker transport firm.

6. WALDKAPELLE 3080, the GV L Waldkapelle in Berlin, was originally supposed to be a small, two or three man team of trained investigators and interrogators to clear up flaps and carry out routine checks in Berlin. It has now grown to a twelve man team, and considering the sensitive functions they perform, KLÄUSER is worried because many of them live in the Eastern Sector of Berlin and even in the Russian Zone. For example, the Waldkapelle's deputy chief, Paul LIEBLICH (#3061, born 3 February 1891 in Berlin) lives in Berlin-Karlshorst, Doenhoffstrasse 13. True, he works legally in a detective agency in Western Berlin and as an 'independent co-worker of an economic detective force.' LIEBLICH, of course, assured that everything was secure, but KLÄUSER requested a reconsideration of the Waldkapelle's present status, strength and security.

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7. BEZIRKS VERTRETUNG 2603, REHLE.

a. #2603.1, a Bonn source, is either to be dropped or transferred to ALBERT, 2600.

b. Eugen HEESLER (#2603.2), Wiesbaden, has been transferred to ALBERT.

c. WIEBOARD (#2812, and subject of MIL-1-1842 et al) has been dropped, according to LEIDL, and a report to that effect should be forthcoming. The reason, according to LEIDL, is that "he has no interest in penetrating the French." However, LEIDL is interested in fending off any possible French attempt to penetrate OFFSPRING. Such an attempt, he feels, would most likely be directed by [Colonel] TOUSSAINT in Bayen-Baden (not to be confused with the chap of the same name in Innsbruck) through his underling, [Colonel] BOURDILS (phonetic) in Trier, who has an interest in REHLE, whenever the latter shows up at home. Another point at which the French might make such an attempt, according to LEIDL, might be through former Abwehr Colonel Alexander WAAQ, who was for a short time with OV C. WAAQ served in France, and after the war was assigned an attractive house in Tuebingen by the French.

d. Paul PALASCH (#2603.5), a former police official living in Wolfsburg, is to be dropped or given to ALBERT, 2600.

e. The interesting thing to note about the developments in para. 7, above, (as discussed later between KLAUSNER and Bedford) is that LEIDL seems intent on having REHLE drop most of his sources or have them transferred to other agents. As we see the picture, REHLE tried to build up an independent GR group from scratch, without getting very far as results are concerned, rather than taking the logical approach of sponing the incoming OV L CI material and from that reservoir picking likely targets and personnel for proper GR exploitation. LEIDL confirmed this thesis with his statement that REHLE would be brought back from the field and would have to operate directly from OV L headquarters.

9. FOREIGN GROUPS: LEIDL plans to drop SONIN (#2623) if he gets OFFSPRING headquarters approval. LEIDL says the man is absolutely afraid to work directly against the KVD, even from the relative safety of the Western Zone. The conspicuous lack of success in penetrating the Soviet Mission in Frankfurt/Main probably added to this conviction and resolve. (Of the group, only Ivan SCHOSTAK, #2909, born 14 August 1923 in Varna, Bulgaria, has been retained as assistant to SONIN.) Paul HODOSY and the Guards remnants are already out and all of them, including HODOSY, want to emigrate (naturally, to the USA). Gleb GMNOV and what is left of Polka are on the skids. LEIDL claims that his experiences with these refugees and DP groups have proved none of them can provide worth-while intelligence.

10. In pruning down the SONIN group, one member, [Dr.] Ewald AUGSBURG, was taken over into OV L's headquarters staff, but works out of Munich. AUGSBURG comes from Lodz, and he speaks Polish and Russian. (Possibly agent #3056?) He has now been entrusted with the exploitation of Case SCHWARZ (on which we

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have as yet received no reports). In Case SCHWARZ, one former General Staff Colonel WEISS of Berchtesgaden is the central figure. KUEHNE, SCHACK's deputy in OFFSPRING ICO, had been assisting the WEISS family while the husband was a PW. He returned home in the late spring of 1950 and wanted to express his thanks to KUEHNE. It developed that WEISS had been a PW of the Poles, and that he had been released when he agreed to work for the Polish IS. KUEHNE introduced an "interested party" (AUGSBURG) and WEISS is now writing down his experiences. Since this might turn into a DA operation, AUGSBURG has been instructed to deliver his reports directly to KERBL (former scenery designer for Frits FISCHER at the Gaertnerplatz Operettentheater, and now LEIDL's headquarters on Munich visits, also a letter drop, from whence messages can be picked up directly by OFFSPRING headquarters. Operation RING reports also come in via this channel now, and carbon copies go on their slow, routine way back to Karlsruhe and from there, again down to OFFSPRING). KERBL's apartment is in Munich, Auen Strasse 2a.

11. SONDER VERTRETUNG 2628, is run by LEIDL's brother, an oil engineer (many years with Shell) who lives in Darmstadt and makes frequent business trips to Berlin. The work here was originally largely in the industrial espionage field, and would have more properly fitted into another General Agency; except for the blood relationship. However, LEIDL has been indoctrinating his brother 2628, and something interesting and potentially valuable in the straight CI field seems to be developing. For the background of these newer developments, it must be told that 2628 was earlier in touch with a young man close to PARTHENAU and Deutscher Union activities, who introduced him to "SCHMIDTHUER," present cover name for Karl Heinz GERMARDT (#2666), bookshop owner in Berlin-Wilmersdorf; Buderodderplatz 9. When the Deutscher Union met in Berlin, and talked of Europa Union, French intelligence became interested in the positive intelligence possibilities offered by members of the Deutscher Union group. GERMARDT in fact set up a group for the French, financed by the latter at DM 4000 per month. The French, curiously, were interested only in the positive intelligence take (in fascinating topics, as LEIDL explained, running the gamut to Baltic Sea fisheries, etc.) and completely ignored the counter intelligence material, which 2628 gratefully siphoned off for OFFSPRING. However, ambitious and expanding, GERMARDT looked around for additional sponsorship, and even came to the attention of BOB (cf. REIN-2195 MCL-4-981). Finally, GV-L settled their contribution to GERMARDT at DM 1500 monthly, as supplement to the French allotment. And GERMARDT has gone ahead, and a whole new group, sponsored by #2668.48, has come up, with nine other sources including #2668.54, information control officer for EISLER in the DDR. Many of the sources are of no interest to OFFSPRING, but GERMARDT is now in Western Germany (near SOEREN) for a month's intensive training, and will be closely watched and nursed, and taught how to prune his network to a small core of important producers.

12. The above social notes about GV-L personnel and their doings comes from notes that undersigned made while KLAUSNER was going over a group of GV-L agents in an attempt to properly assess them. It must be stressed that the activity of all GV-L agents did not come up for review, but only those on which KLAUSNER wanted some clarification for his own satisfaction. It must also be admitted that the undersigned could not note down everything discussed, but this time tried to concentrate on noting down real names (which all of the above are, unless otherwise noted) during those ~~private~~ ^{informal} meetings.

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